

# PREFACE

The Business, Transportation and Housing Agency is the lead agency for traffic safety in the State of California. It oversees the activities of the Office of Traffic Safety and Departments of California Highway Patrol, Transportation, and Motor Vehicles.

The California Highway Patrol has prepared the 2004 Annual Report of Fatal and Injury Motor Vehicle Traffic Collisions. This Report was completed as a result of motor vehicle traffic collision reports received from local police and sheriff jurisdictions and from California Highway Patrol field offices.

The Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS) processes all reported fatal and injury collisions which occurred on California's state highways and all other roadways, excluding private property.

SWITRS, a 30 year old system, was re-engineered beginning with 2002 data. Due to changes in the program and the processing of traffic collision reports, 2004 data may contain some anomalies and may not be comparable to years prior to 2002.

In July 2003, the Traffic Collision Report form was revised. As a result of this revision, the reporting category "Statewide Vehicle Type" was eliminated and local agencies were required to use the "CHP Vehicle Type." A significant number of these agencies are using the new form revision, but are not using the "CHP Vehicle Types." Due to this omission, the number of statewide vehicle types "Not Stated" has greatly increased from previous years. In SWITRS, the entry of a "CHP Vehicle Type" generates "Statewide Vehicle Type" in the data. The "Statewide Vehicle Type" is the basis for many of the tables in this publication; such as truck involved collisions, motorcycle involved collisions, and vehicle occupant restraint usage. The data on these tables may be under reported due to the revision of the traffic collision report form.

Property Damage Only (PDO) collisions are found in Sections 1 and 8 of this publication. PDOs are indicators of the volume of traffic collisions and are not exact statistics. This is due to some agencies reporting only partial numbers of their PDO collisions or none at all.

This report is prepared in accordance with Section 2408 of the California Vehicle Code. The cooperation of all traffic law enforcement agencies is greatly appreciated.

This report can also be viewed at the California Highway Patrol Internet Home Page at <http://www.chp.ca.gov> under "Publications."

